Performance of Educational Institutions

2805. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "Government move to assess performance of educational institutions; UGC gearing up for fireworks" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 27th October, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the progress made in the assessment performance of educational institutions, institution-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The University Grants Commission has decided to set up a National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) to, inter-alia, grade institutions of higher education and their programmes; stimulate the academic environment and quality of teaching and research; encourage innovations, self-evaluation and accountability in higher education; and promote necessary changes and reforms in these institutions. The technical education institutions, such as IITs, RECs, etc., fall within the purview of All Indian Council of Technical Education (AICTE). The AICTE has set up a National Board of Accreditation to periodically conduct evaluation of technical institutions or programmes on the basis of guidelines, norms and standards specified by it and to make recommendation to its, or to other bodies, regarding recogniton or derecognition of the institutions or the programme.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has been registered as a Society at Bangalore under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, and the Karnataka Societies Registration Rules, 1961.

Opening of Study Centre at Tihar Jail by IGNOU

2806. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study centre of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was opened recently at Tihar Jail, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the course proposed to be offered at the study centre;

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred for running the centre;

(d) the response of the inmates of the jail to the gesture of IGNOU;

(e) whether the IGNOU propose to consider establishing such study centres in the Central Jails of other Metropoliton cities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University, a study centre was formally inaugurated on 28-7-1994 in Tihar Jail, New Delhi. The following programmes are offered at the Centre:—

1. Bachelors' Preparatory Programme
2. Bachelor of Arts
3. Bachelor of Commerce
4. Certificate in Food & Nutrition
5. Diploma in Rural Development

Like other Centres, for this Centre the University meets expenditure on furniture and audio/video equipment and books and reading materials. The centre is manned by part-time staff and the remuneration is paid by the University.

(c) The average expenditure involved in the running of a Study Centre is about Rs. 1.5 lakhs on non-recurring items and about Rs. 80,000 per annum on recurring expenditure.

(d) The response of the inmates has been quite good. The enrolment in 1994 was 19, for 1995 it is 107.

(e) and (f) A sub-centre under the auspices of a Study Centre in Bangalore has been functioning in the Central Jail Bangalore since 1993. The entire expenditure on the sub-centre is met by the Government of Karnataka. A proposal to set up a sub-centre at Sabarmati Central Jail in Ahmedabad is under consideration of the University.

Admission of Rural Children in Navodaya Vidyalayas

2807. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Navodaya Vidyalayas had been set up to provide opportunities to talented children from different parts of the country particularly of rural areas; and

(b) if so, what is the total number of students admitted/studying in those schools from rural areas at present and the details of the safeguard adopted to ensure that rural children get admission?